

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 DHA-02 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: D/HA/ORM:JLCARLIN:MTM

APPROVED BY: D/HA/ORM: JLCARLIN

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R 141924Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOL REPEAT OF BEIRUT 1426 TO SECSTATE INFO ATHENS FEB 14

QTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 1426

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, APER, CVIS, SREF, LE

SUBJ: PROCESSING ASSYRIAN AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON
AND CONSULAR STAFFING NEEDS

REF: STATE 36591

1. EMBASSY IS PREPARING COMMENCE PROCESSING OF FIRST TRANCHE
ASSYRIAN AND ARMENIAN REFUGEES HERE PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL.
IN FACT, CONSULAR OFFICER KARALA SMITH IS HERE, SINCE I PERMITTED
HER STAY TO HELP COPE WITH VERY HEAVY CONSULAR WORKLOAD WHILE
CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF MAULE WENT ON VACATION TO SEE HIS FAMILY
IN EUROPE. SMITH WILL STAY ON, BUT I AM CONCERNED THAT NORMAL
VISA NEEDS BE BETTER SERVICED WHILE THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM IS
UNDERWAY. THERE ARE IMPORTANT POLITICAL-PUBLIC-RELATIONS REASONS
FOR THIS AS WELL AS FACT THAT WORKLOAD HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY
AS CEASEFIRE HAS BEEN HOLDING. IN RECENT DAYS VISA APPLICANTS
WAITING ON STREET OUTSIDE EMBASSY HAVE HAD TO BE TURNED AWAY
AS EARLY AS 0630 OR 0700 IN THE MORNING. WE THEREFORE NEED
ONE ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER APART FROM THE OFFICER WHO WILL
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HANDLE SPECIAL REFUGEE PROGRAM, WHICH WE SHALL BE TREATING

SEPARATELY.

2. WE SUGGESTED SUTTER SINCE POST WAS UNAWARE HE HAD FIRM ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT AT THIS TIME. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT PROVIDING SUCH AN OFFICER ASAP. MAULE WILL RETURN FROM LEAVE FEB 23, BUT I AM ANXIOUS TO REDUCE WAITING LINE OUTSIDE EMBASSY BEFORE WE BEGIN SPECIAL REFUGEE PROGRAM.

LAMBRAKIS UNQTE INGERSOLL

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